

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following claim set replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled)

2. (Currently Amended) An acid-dye and coffee stain resistant carpet comprising:

a backing material; and

stain resistant sheath/core bicomponent face fibers with non-round cross-sections affixed in said backing material and bound thereto;

said face fibers comprising: a core of a first polyamide component; and a sheath occupying from about 3 to about 9 percent of the fiber and substantially or completely covering said core, said sheath comprising a second polyamide component which is inherently chemically compatible with said first polyamide component, said second polyamide component comprising at least one stain resistant polyamide polymer selected from the group consisting of:

(a) $[\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_x-\text{NH}-\text{CO}-(\text{CH}_2)_y-\text{CO}]_n$

where x and y may be the same or different integers from about 4 to about 30, the sum of x and y is greater than 13, and n is greater than about 40; and

(b) $[\text{NH}-(\text{CH}_2)_z-\text{CO}]_m$

where z is an integer from about 9 to about 30 and m is greater than about 40;

(c) derivatives of (a) or (b) including polymers substituted with one or more sulphonate, halogenate, aliphatic or aromatic functionality; and

(d) copolymers and blends of (a), (b) and (c);

wherein said fiber has a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value which is about 70% or less of a percent steam heatsetting shrinkage value of an otherwise identical fiber consisting of only said first polyamide component; and

said carpet in an uncolored state having a red drink staining depth of less than 15 CIE ΔE units and a coffee staining depth of less than about 10 CIE ΔE units, and

wherein said inherently compatible polyamide component has a concentration of titratable amino end-groups less than 30 milliequivalents per kilogram.

3. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 2, wherein said concentration of titratable amino end-groups in said second polyamide polymer is less than 5 milliequivalents per kilogram.

4. – 8. (Canceled)

9. (Previously Presented) The carpet of claim 3 wherein said core component has an amino end-group concentration between 5 and 100 milliequivalents per kilogram.

10. (Currently Amended) The carpet of ~~claim 22~~ claim 2 wherein said core component has an amino end-group concentration between 20 and 50 milliequivalents per kilogram.

11. –22. (Canceled)

23. (Previously Presented) The carpet of any one of claims 2, 3, 9 or 10, wherein said second polyamide component is substantially sulfonate-free.